



Cabinet Office

January 21, 2009

Contribution in Kind to UNRWA for the Relief of Palestinian Conflict-Afflicted People

1. Background

(1) Against the Gaza Strip where the conflict continues between Israel and Palestinian militants, Israel has carried out a large-scale air and ground offensive since December 27, 2008, causing great damage, including over 1,300 dead and approximately 5,300 wounded in this conflict as of January 18, 2009.

(2) The damage to the Gaza Strip has caused an acute shortage of the necessities of the Palestinian people there, leading to a critical situation from a humanitarian perspective.

(3) The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), conducting international humanitarian relief operations to relieve conflict-afflicted people in the Gaza Strip, requested to the Government of Japan (GOJ) the provision of immediate necessities, including blankets, for the conflict-afflicted Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

2. Relief Items

Under Article 25(1) of the Law Concerning Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (the International Peace Cooperation Law), the GOJ will make a cabinet meeting decision on January 23, 2009, to provide 29,000 blankets, 8,000 plastic sheets, and 20,000 sleeping mats. All available items of each, stockpiled at the two warehouses, in Yokohama, Japan and Sharjah, UAE, of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office of Japan, will be provided to the UNRWA. This in-kind contribution marks one of the largest ever in the volume of relief items provided from the Cabinet Office's stockpiles.

3. Logistics

For the information on the loading schedule of the relief items, including loading at the Narita Airport and unloading at the El Arish Airport, Egypt, please call or e-mail the following contact point.

4. Handover Ceremony

A ceremony will be held to hand over the items at TBA in Egypt at TBA in local time (TBA in JST) in the presence of officials concerned. The photos of the ceremony will be available in Tokyo on the same day. If you need photos of the ceremony and further information, please contact:

(Contact Point)

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Plan for the Transportation and Distribution of the Relief Items

